(b) the details of vacancies as on 01.01.2008 in Gr. A, B, C and D;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Department of Doordarshan, Prasar Bharati, AIR etc. are working without regular Head at National level; and

(d) what steps are proposed to fill in the above vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (d) The information is being compiled and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Protest against films passed by Censor Board

3948. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the increasing number of protests, which often turn violent, against the screening of certain films despite the fact that they have been passed by the Censor Board;

(b) whether it reflects poorly on the functioning of the Censor Board; and

(c) what steps Government proposes to take to ensure that the certification given by the Censor Board is acceptable to all communities?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) Yes, Sir. Media reports have indicated that there had been protests in some States against certian films despite their being certified by Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC).

(b) No, Sir. CBFC certifies films in accordance with the Cinematograph Act, 1952 and Rules and Guidelines framed thereunder.

(c) CBFC has its headquarters at Mumbai. Its nine regional officers are located at Bangalore, Calcutta, Chennai, Cuttack, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Mumbai, New Delhi and Thiruvananthapuram which cater to the films imported into or produced in their respective jurisdictional areas. The regional offices are assisted in the examination of films by advisory panels (constituted under Section 5 of the Cinematograph Act) consisting of persons from different walks of life.

Additionally, as per Rule 41(4)(c) of the Cinematograph (Certification) Rules, 1983, in cases where the members of the Examining Committee, after the examination of the film, submit to the Chairman a provisional report indicating that expert opinion on subjects depicted in the film such as subjects relating to defence or foreign relations or any particular religion or law or medicine or any other subject, should be sought before the final report is submitted, the Chairman may after taking into consideration the circumstances of the case specify a time limit for obtaining the expert opinion and for the submission of the final report of the Examining Committee thereafter.

Participation of officers in NAM Conference

3949. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether a delegation of officers from All India Radio, Doordarshan and Prasar Bharati have attended the NAM Conference in Las Vegas in USA last month;